

Appl. No. 09/996,649

Amdt. Dated May 6, 2003

Reply to Office Action of February 6, 2003

Attorney Docket No. 2204-011944

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Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph 0041 commencing on page 13 and bridging page 14 with the following rewritten paragraph:

B₁ --Rusts were generated on a surface of a test piece of Comparative Example 8 whose Cr content was less than 8.0 wt.%, but generation of rusts was not observed on a surface of any test piece of the other Examples whose Cr content is 8.0 wt.% or more. It is recognized from these results that Cr content of 8.0 wt.% or more is necessary for insurance of corrosion resistance. The value M of any Examples 8 to 10, in which Ti and Nb carbide precipitates were distributed at a ratio of less than 0.1 wt.% in total, was not so much smaller compared with a conventional member (Example 11). On the other hand, any test piece of Examples 1 to 7, in which a total amount of Ti and Nb carbide precipitates were distributed at a ratio of ~~less than~~ 0.1 wt.% or more, had the value M below ~~03~~ 30%. Such lower value M means the lifetime of a flat steel heald made of the newly proposed steel is three times longer than a conventional flat steel heald.--